(a) the proposed allocation for education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan alongwith the expected growth of education; and

(b) how much investment is expected to be provided by private sector, NGO and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) An allocation of Rs. 2,69,873 crore has been provided to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs. 84,943 crore for Department of Higher Education). This is a 4.6 fold increase over the expenditure incurred during X Five Year Plan. The share of the Plan allocation has increased from 7.7% in the X Five Year Plan to 19.4 in the XI Five Year Plan. The increased allocation during XI Five Year Plan is expected to lead to increased access while ensuring quality and inclusiveness.

(b) It is not possible to assess realistically the investment likely to be made by private sector,NGOs and others on education during XI Plan.

Coverage under MDM scheme in Karnataka

3552. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of students in Karnataka, covered under the Mid-day Meal scheme for which funds have been released by the Central Government for 2007-08;

(b) whether there is any proposal to widen the scope of the scheme in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD-ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) For the year 2007-08, Central Assistance for Mid Day Meal was released for 38,52,508 children at primary stage in Karnataka. In addition, Central Assistance was released for 9,78,113 children at upper primary stage in 74 educationally backward blocks in the State with effect from 1.10.2007.

(b) and (c) From the financial year 2008-09, the scheme will be expanded to cover children studying in classes VI-VIII in eligible schools/centers all over the State of Karnataka. By this expansion, the number of children at upper primary level will increase to 20,31,143.

Courses through internet

3553. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of courses are being provided by foreign universities/ colleges through the internet;

(b) if so, the details of institutions/colleges offering such courses;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to regulate the distance and online education including such courses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?